



UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



Youth Resolution on

Education and Sustainable Development

adopted at the UN ESCAP Youth Forum on the Implementation of Rio+20

for East and North-East Asia (ENEA) and North and Central Asia (NCA),

Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 21 August 2013

Twenty-nine representatives of youth organizations from 11 countries of East and North-East Asia (ENEA) and North and Central Asia (NCA), namely Armenia, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, met for three days on 19-21 August 2013 at Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, and discussed youth actions to support the implementation of Rio+20. The youths chose three thematic topics prior to the Forum, and during the Forum they created and unanimously adopted three resolutions as the outcome documents of the discussions.

The three thematic topics are: 1) Water and Sanitation; 2) Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements; and 3) Education for Sustainable Development.

Below is the youth resolution on thematic topic 3) Education and Sustainable Development.

The UN ESCAP Youth Forum,

Reaffirming principles of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD),

Recalling the resolution of the UN General Assembly 66/288 “The Future We Want” (2012) as well as Bonn Declaration (2009),

Emphasizing the necessity to increase public awareness about social and environmental challenges, biodiversity losses, climate change, water and sanitation, disaster risk reduction and social sustainability,

Bearing in mind the current condition of environmental protection process among the member States,

Expressing its gratitude to the work done and efforts put previously by the ecological organizations, Youth-led Non-Governmental Organizations (Youth NGOs) and Governments of the member States,

Recognizing the need of full involvement of youth and civil society organizations into the process of implementation and promotion of the principles of sustainable development including the development of green economy and maintenance of ecosystem sanity,

Taking into consideration the need of information sharing platform creation and the use of Information and Communication Technologies for ensuring information spreading among youth organizations,

Taking into account importance of implementing the concept of sustainable development in education,

Deeply alarmed by the existing problem of oppression of some social groups, including ethnic groups, within the national boundaries, which undermines the sustainable social development,

Firmly convinced that it is necessary to promote human rights of all through enforcing non-discrimination at all levels,

Expressing its appreciation towards the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in elaborating techniques that can be used for promotion of ESD in the frames of formal education,

Welcoming the initiatives of youth in decision-making processes on sustainable development at the subregional, regional, and international levels,

1. *Draws* the attention of governments to install systems to keep public spaces clean, including setting up recycle bins and classified trash bins, and *reaffirms* emphatically the importance of:

- a) creating and providing the conditions for recycling and reusing of trash, including trash bins with clear instructions attached,
- b) establishment of eco-friendly production systems including complete acquisition, transportation and recycling, resulting in economic benefits, and
- c) the role of schools and mass media in raising public awareness on recycling;

2. *Notes in particular* the significance of field trips with the goal to combine theories and practices and to exchange knowledge among participants;

3. *Recommends* annual eco-trips to be organized by civil ecological organizations in one of the member States of ENEA and NCA subregions to discuss ideas and to share experiences with one another;

4. *Strongly encourages* relevant youth organizations and civil society to elaborate and implement interactive extra-curricular school programs concerning Principles of Personal and Social Safety for disaster risk reduction in particular areas by giving them knowledge about how to behave in disaster situations;

5. *Requests* UN ESCAP to create a special Internet Platform for Youth to share experiences and best practices by youth organizations and information about upcoming

events organized by youths in order to attract youth participants from different countries;

6. *Calls upon* member States to include the elements of informal ESD in school curricula;

7. *Affirms* the necessity of promoting tolerance and non-discrimination principles through non-formal educational activities among primary, secondary and high school kids;

8. *Encourages* member States to introduce teaching techniques developed by UNESCO and introduced in its publications in the context of formal education;

9. *Emphasizes the necessity* of raising public awareness on the subject of non-discrimination legislation including both national and international law and, to this end, *encourages* Youth-led Non-Governmental Organizations (Youth NGOs) to conduct non-formal education activities (festivals, competitions, social theatres, etc), which can involve participants of a wide range of ages;

10. *Calls upon* the governments to provide support to Youth NGOs in organizing and conducting the following activities:

- a) International Environmental Forum held annually in different countries in ENEA and NCA subregions, with the participation of international experts in conducting lectures and workshops for the participants,
- b) International and regional environmental festivals, where the initiatives of participants in organizing exhibitions, concerts, etc, are highly welcomed,
- c) Eco-actions directed to improving the situation in some specific regions,
- d) Non-formal educational projects for school kids related to eco-monitoring,
- e) International and regional programs for university students directed to the promotion of sustainable lifestyle, such as workshops, public lectures, seminars, summer schools, etc,
- f) Promotion of sustainable lifestyle through mass media, involving social advertising,

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